

**Washington, D.C.** - Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) announced today that the Georgia Department of Transportation will receive a \$1 million grant to purchase a new ferry boat for the Savannah River Ferry System. This grant is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009, which authorized \$60 million for the Ferry Boat Discretionary (FBD) program for construction and rehabilitation of ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities. Congressman Barrow voted for the Recovery Act earlier this year, and President Obama signed it into law.

“The ferry system is very important to the folks who live and work in Savannah, and also for our visitors,” said Barrow. “This money will make it easier for all of us to get around. It’s good for business, and it’s good for the people who make our economy go.”

The ferry system is the main transportation link between downtown Savannah and the convention-hotel, commercial, and residential facilities on Hutchinson Island. The existing ferry is aging and not able to meet Savannah's need to efficiently and reliably connect the city with the commercial and hospitality center on the island.

The ferry serves commuting workers, visitors, and residents in equal measure, and is critical to the expansion of downtown onto the island, which is already underway.

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**Contact:** Jane Brodsky, (202) 225-2823

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